



RANJIT SINGH

THE LION OF PUNJAB

Vol 726 | ₹ 90





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Illustrations

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Editor

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Amar Chitra Katha Pvt Ltd

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ISBN 978-81-8482-095-9

Published by Amar Chitra Katha Pvt. Ltd., AFL House, 7th Floor,
Lok Bharati Complex, Marol Maroshi Road, Andheri (East), Mumbai - 400059, India.

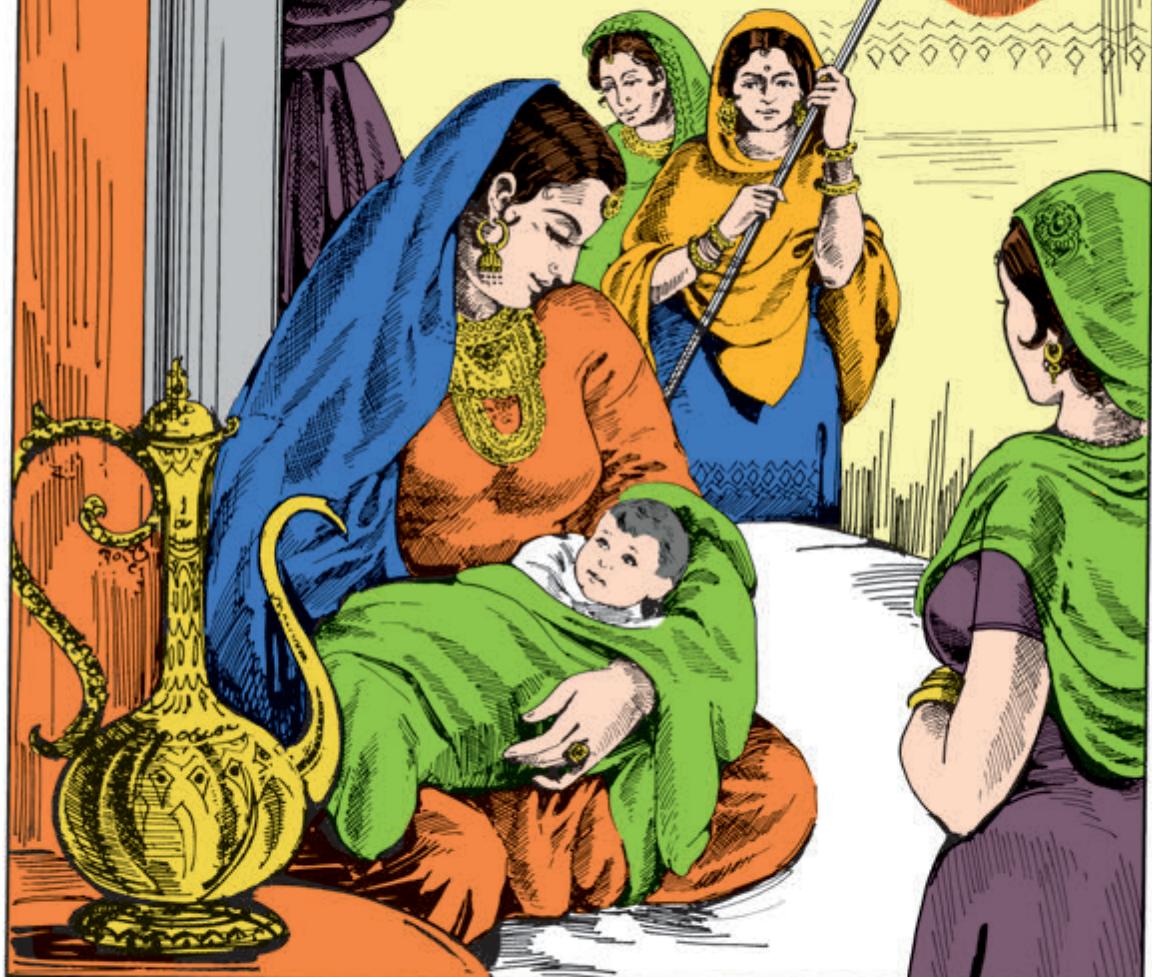
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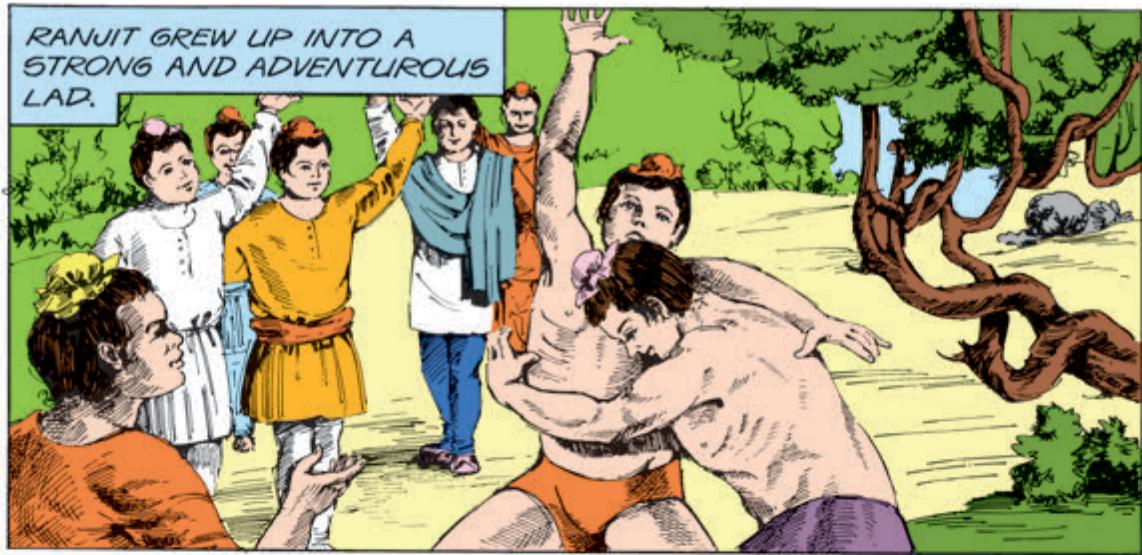
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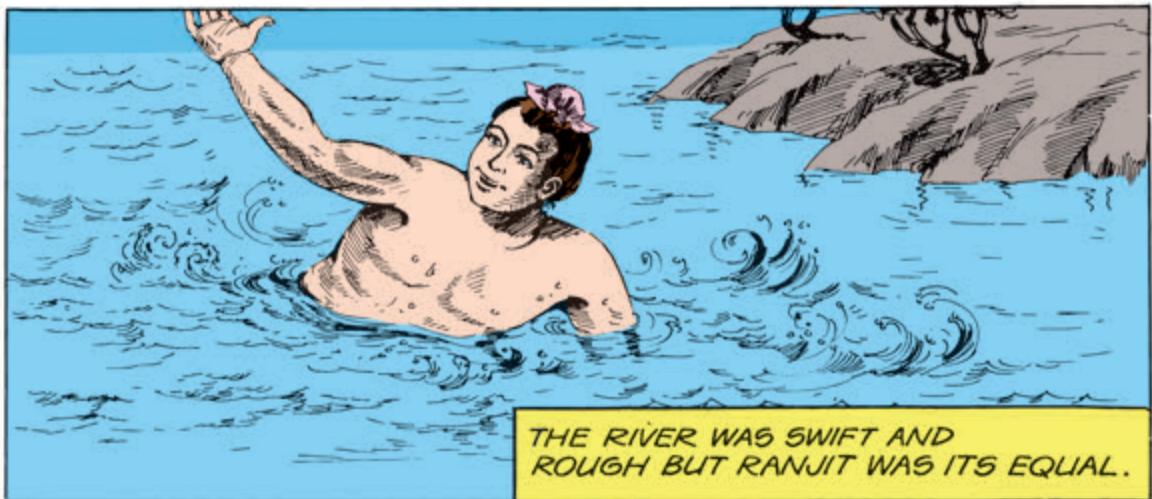
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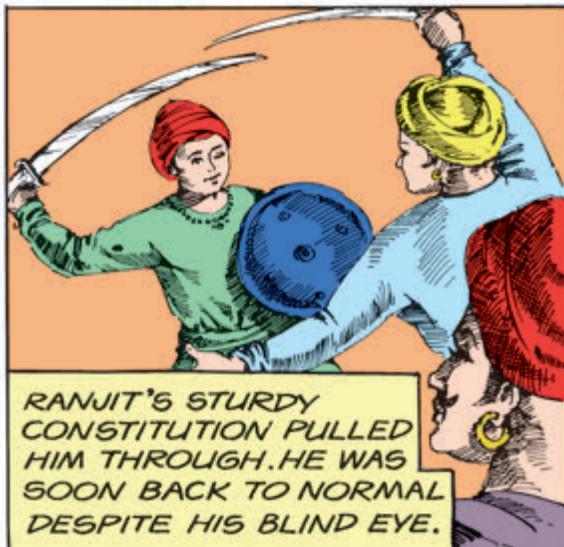
BADJIT SINGH



ON NOVEMBER 13, 1780, IN THE SMALL TOWN OF BUDRUKHAN NEAR JIND, RAJ KAUR GAVE BIRTH TO A BOY WHO WAS DESTINED TO BE GREAT. HE WAS CALLED RANJIT SINGH.







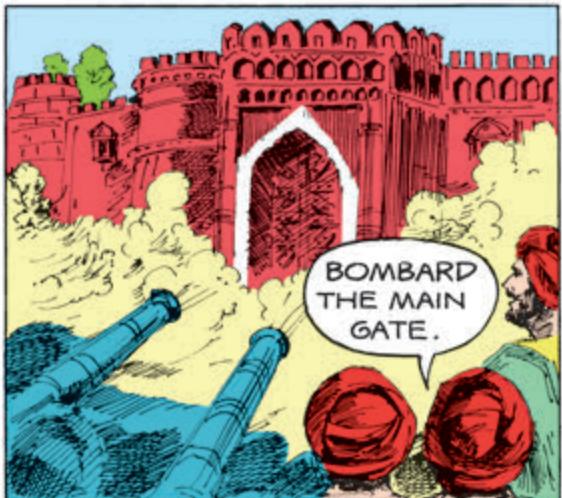
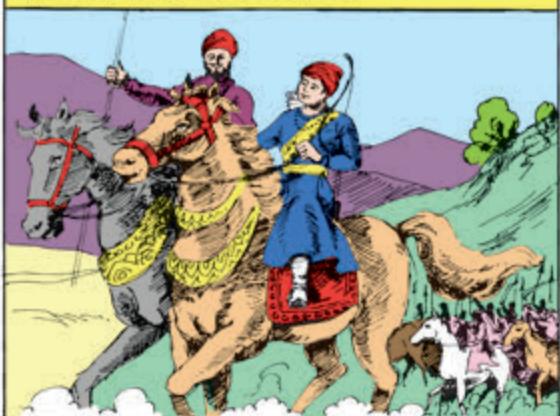
A REBELLIOUS CHIEF HAD USURPED TERRITORY BELONGING TO RANJIT'S FATHER.

THAT TEN-YEAR-OLD BOY! HA! HA! HA!

SIRE, MAHAN SINGH IS ILL AND HIS SON HAS BEEN SENT TO OVER-THROW US.

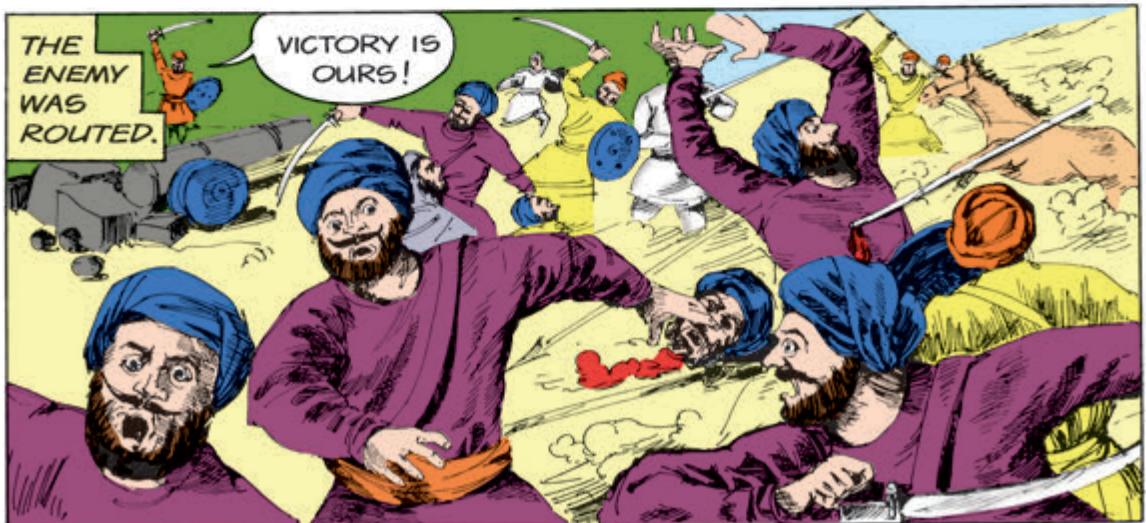
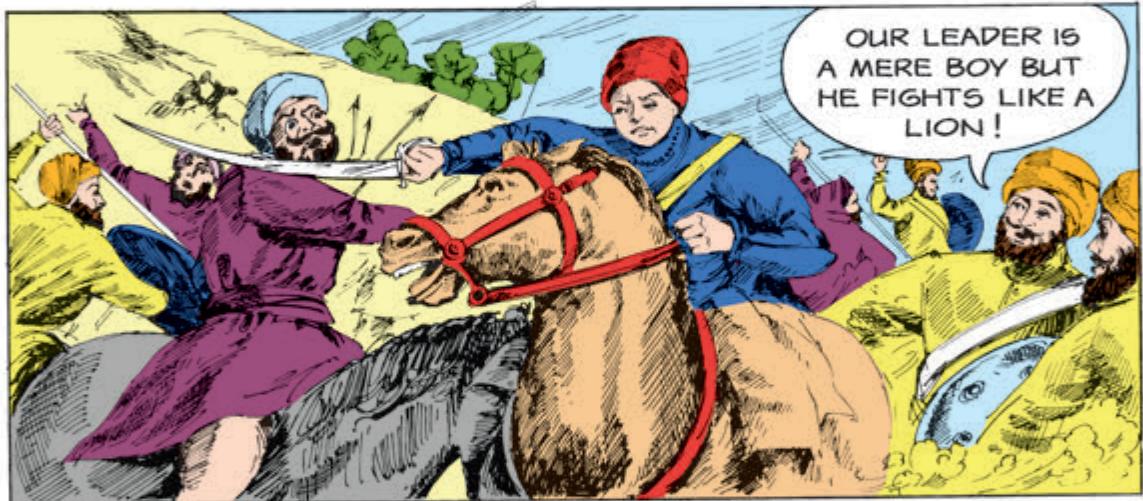


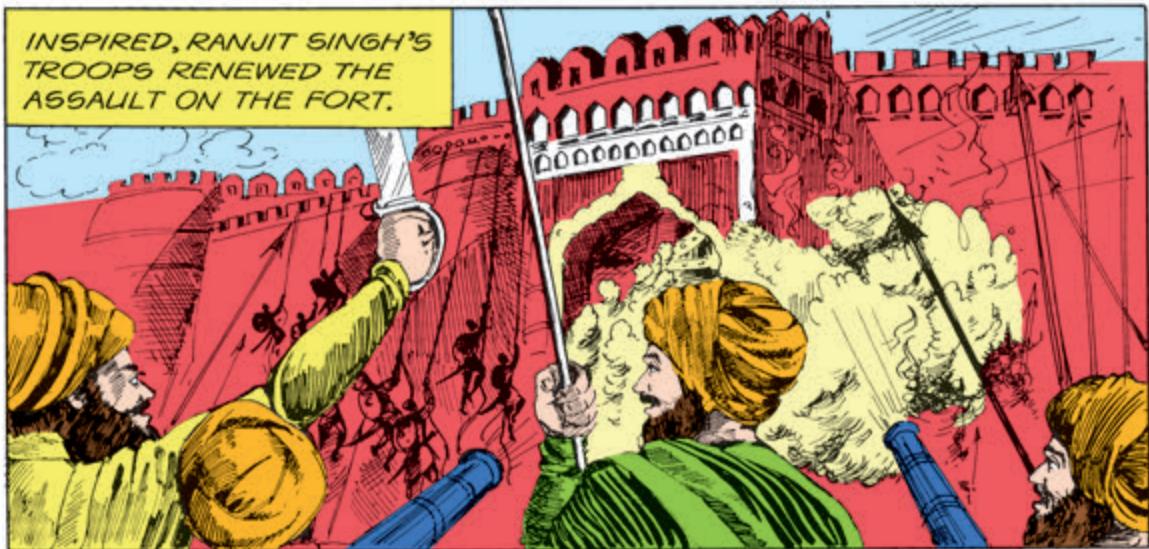
BUT RANJIT WAS NO ORDINARY TEN-YEAR-OLD BOY.



BUT...





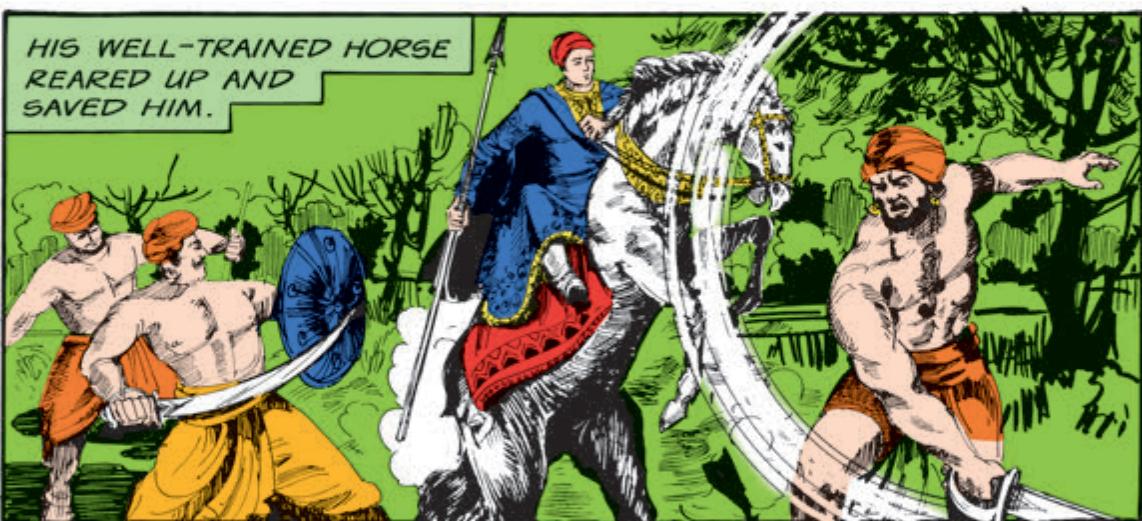




THE FOLLOWING YEAR, RANJIT SINGH
NARROWLY ESCAPED AN ATTEMPT ON HIS LIFE.



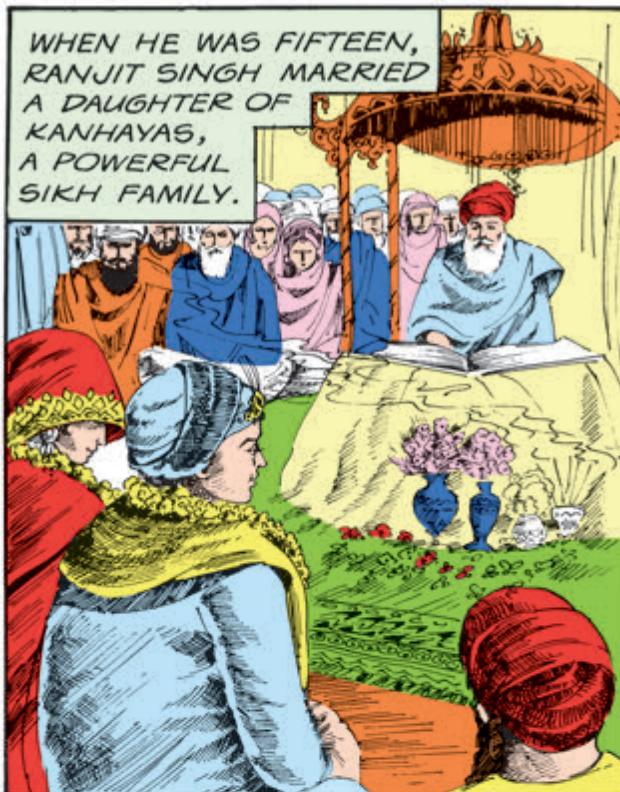
HIS WELL-TRAINED HORSE
REARED UP AND
SAVED HIM.



THIS LUCKY BREAK
WAS ALL THAT
RANJIT SINGH
NEEDED.



WHEN HE WAS FIFTEEN,
RANJIT SINGH MARRIED
A DAUGHTER OF
KANHAYAS,
A POWERFUL
SIKH FAMILY.

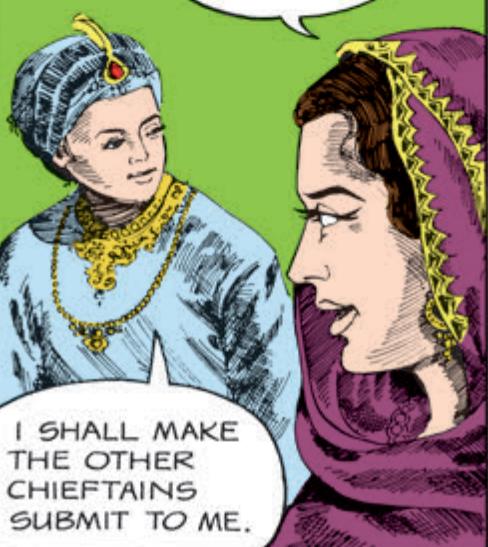


HE SOON CAME UNDER THE
INFLUENCE OF HIS MOTHER-
IN-LAW, SADA KAUR,
A REMARKABLE WOMAN.



SHE URGED RANJIT SINGH
TO BECOME THE RULER OF
A UNITED PUNJAB.

THE PUNJAB
NEEDS ONE
RULER.



BUT BEFORE RANJIT SINGH COULD
PROCEED, A NEW THREAT
ENGAGED HIS ATTENTION.

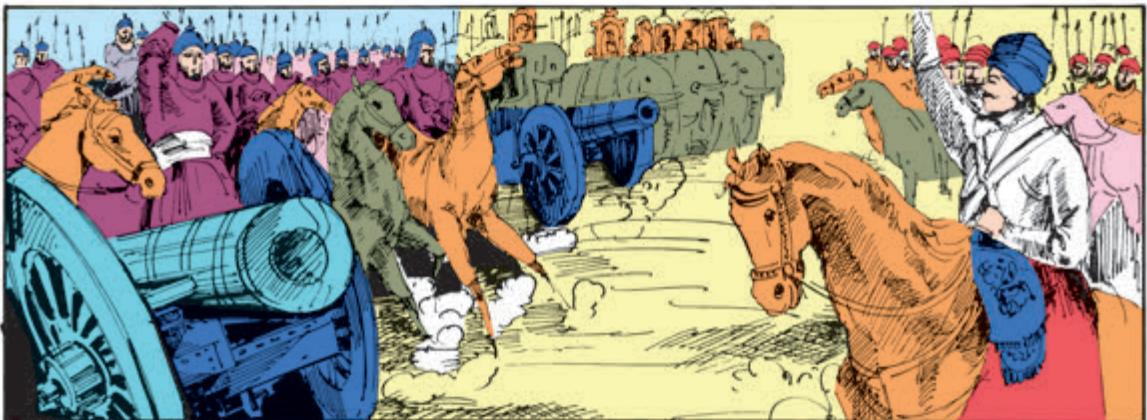
SHAH ZAMAN, THE AFGHAN RULER INVADED THE PUNJAB!

THIS WILL BE AN EASY CAMPAIGN FOR US.

THE SIKHS ARE GOOD FIGHTERS BUT THEY DON'T HAVE A LEADER !

THE SHAH HAD SPOKEN TOO SOON.

YOU MUST SET AN EXAMPLE TO THE OTHER CHIEFS AND RESIST THE AFGHANS.



THOUGH HEAVILY OUTNUMBERED, RANJIT SINGH DECIDED TO FACE THE MIGHTY AFGHANS. THE OVER-CONFIDENT AFGHANS WERE BEATEN BY A DETERMINED OPPONENT.

LOOK, THEY ARE FLEEING. VICTORY IS OURS !



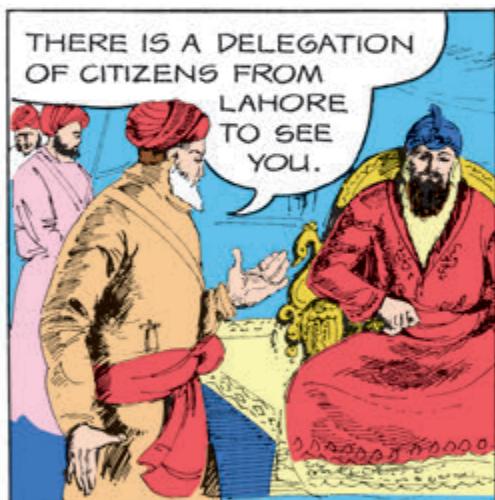
THE WHOLE OF THE PUNJAB WAS ELATED BY RANJIT SINGH'S GREAT VICTORY.

AT LAST WE HAVE FOUND A GREAT LEADER!

BUT WILL THE OTHER CHIEFS SUBMIT TO HIM.



THERE IS A DELEGATION OF CITIZENS FROM LAHORE TO SEE YOU.



WE HAVE BEEN DEPUTED BY THE CITIZENS OF LAHORE TO ASK YOU TO TAKE OVER OUR CITY.

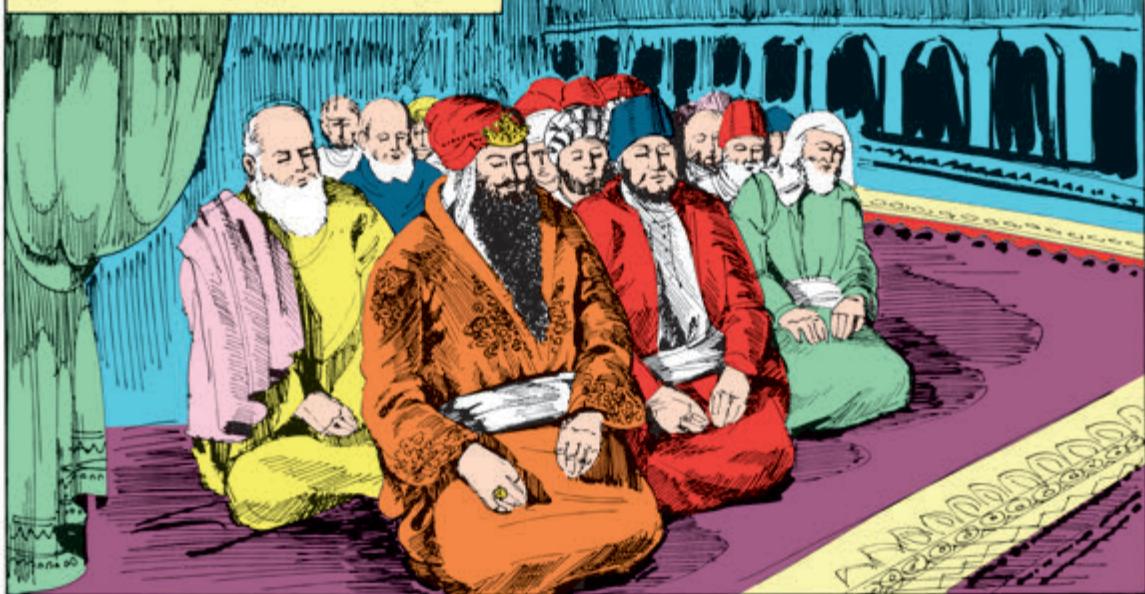


LAHORE WAS THE POLITICAL CAPITAL OF THE PUNJAB. CONTROL OF THAT CITY WAS ESSENTIAL IF RANJIT SINGH WERE TO BECOME MASTER OF THE PUNJAB.





WITH THE BACKING OF THE PEOPLE OF LAHORE, RANJIT SINGH TOOK OVER THE CITY. HIS FIRST PUBLIC ACT WAS TO PAY HOMAGE AT THE BADSHAHI MOSQUE.



THOUGH RANJIT SINGH IS A SIKH, HE RESPECTS THE MUSLIMS.

YES, MANY MUSLIMS ARE NOW FIGHTING IN HIS ARMY.



RANJIT SINGH NEXT SUBDUELLED THE RAJA OF JAMMU.



ON BAISAKHI (APRIL 12), 1801, RANJIT SINGH WAS DECLARED MAHARAJA OF THE PUNJAB.



AFTER HIS CORONATION, RANJIT SINGH RODE ON AN ELEPHANT THROUGH THE STREETS OF LAHORE, SHOWERING COINS ON THE JUBILANT CROWD.



THOUGH HE WAS NOW A KING, RANJIT SINGH REFUSED TO GIVE UP HIS SIMPLICITY.

YOUR HIGHNESS, NOW WE MUST GET A MAGNIFICENT THRONE FOR YOU.

CERTAINLY NOT!

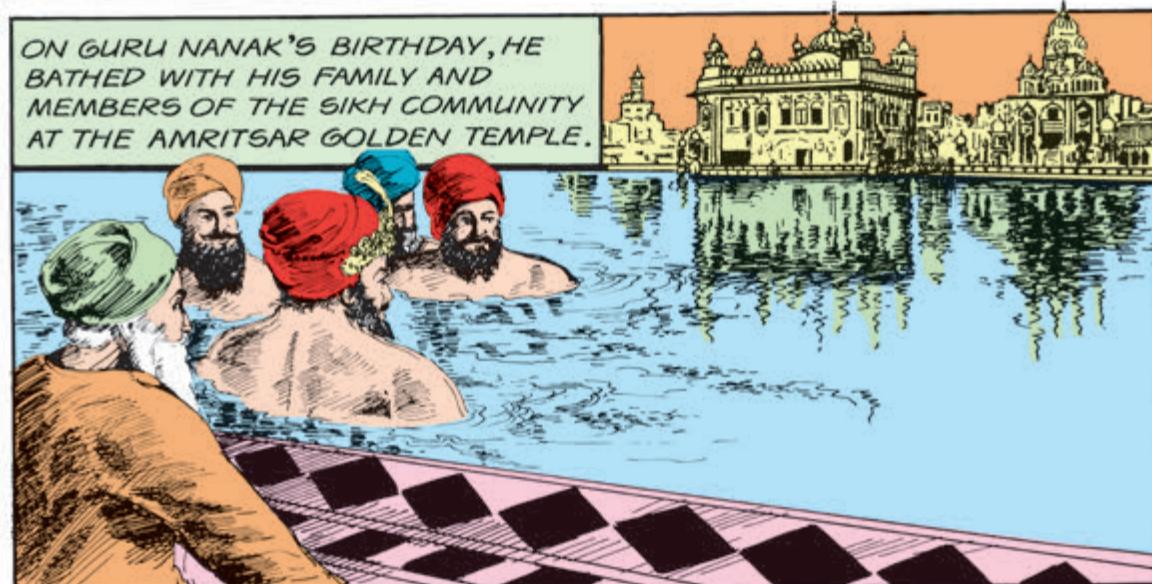
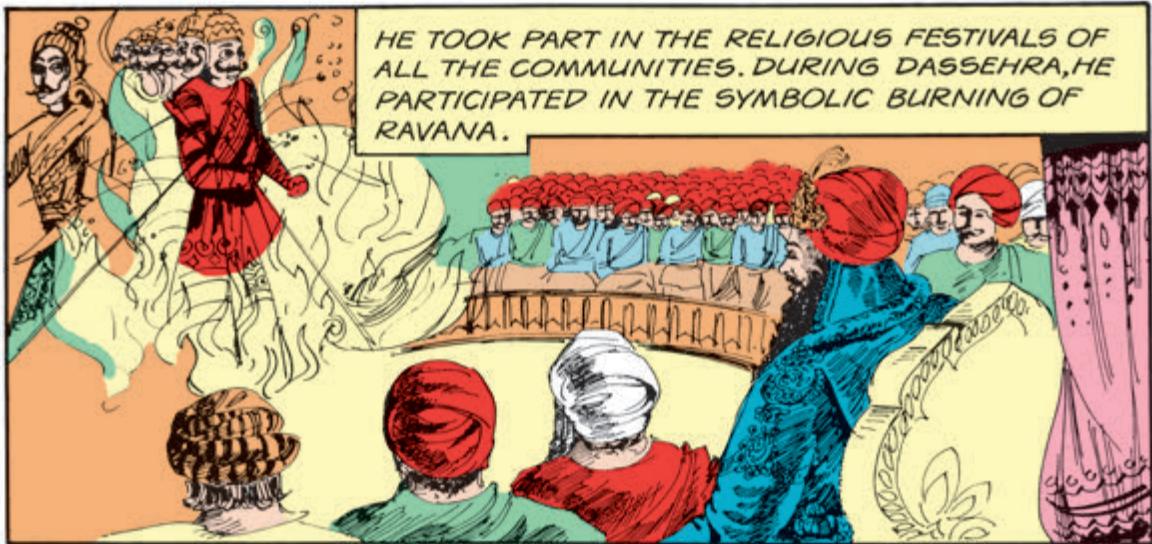
NEW COINS WERE STRUCK, BUT NOT WITH HIS NAME OR PORTRAIT. THEY BORE THE NAME AND THE LIKENESS OF GURU NANAK.



RANJIT SINGH WAS NOT ESTABLISHING A SIKH KINGDOM, BUT A PUNJAB STATE IN WHICH SIKHS, HINDUS AND MUSLIMS ENJOYED EQUAL RIGHTS.

MY LORD,
YOUR SIKH SOL-
DIES HAVE
LOOTED MY
HOUSE.

HAVE HIS GOODS
RETURNED AND
THE SOLDIERS
PUNISHED.



RANJIT SINGH'S COURT REFLECTED HIS SECULAR NATURE.



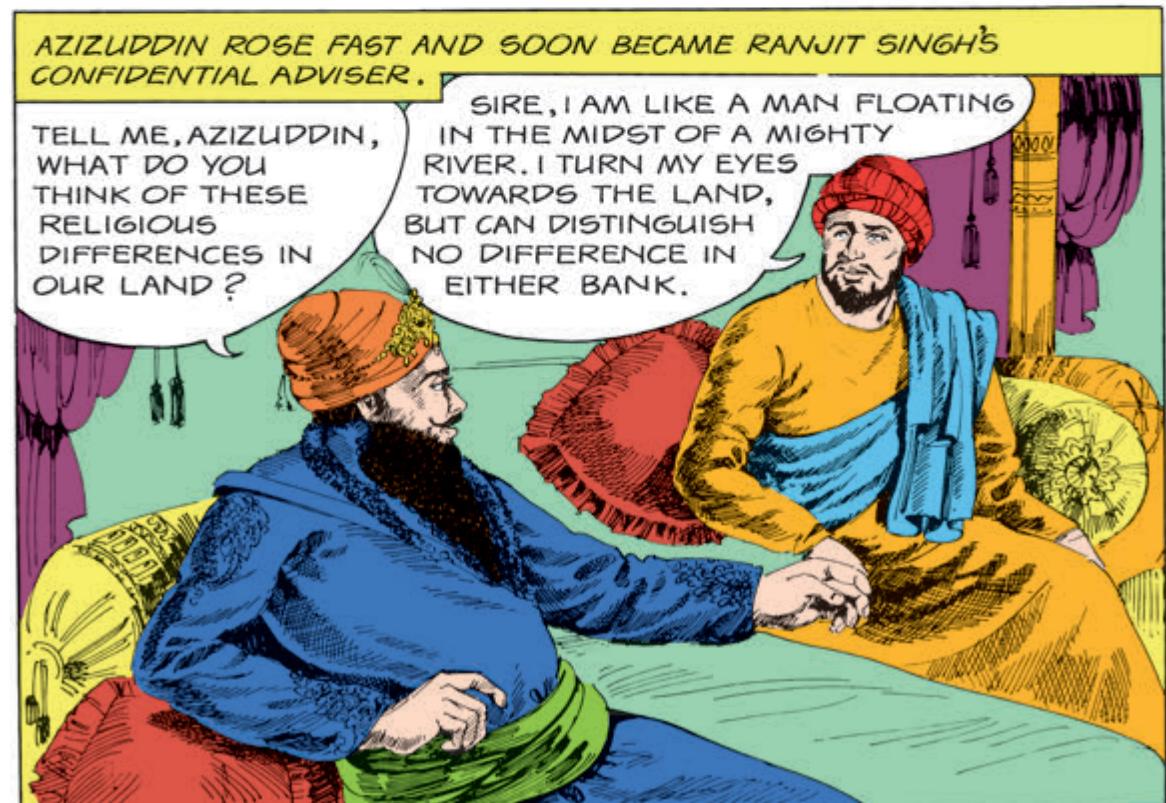
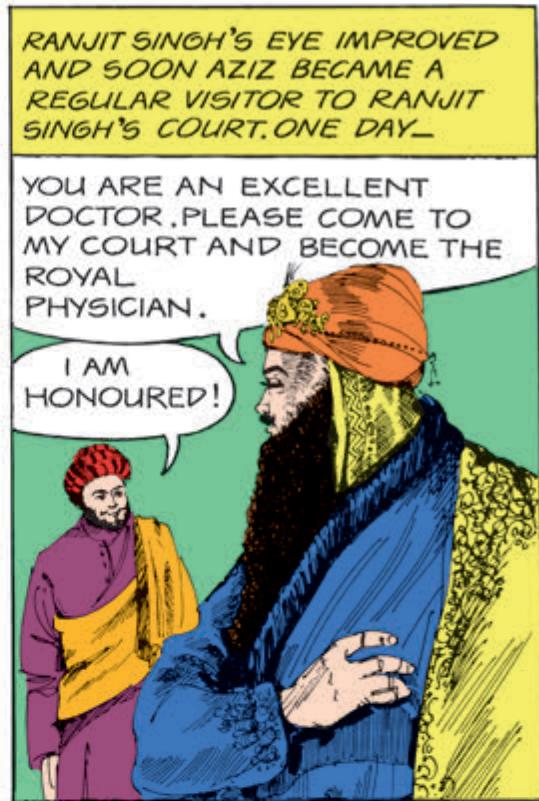
RANJIT SINGH NEEDED
TREATMENT FOR HIS EYE.

MY EYE HAS BEEN
TROUBLING ME!

CALL
AZIZUDDIN. HE
IS SUPPOSED TO
BE AN EXCELLENT
DOCTOR.

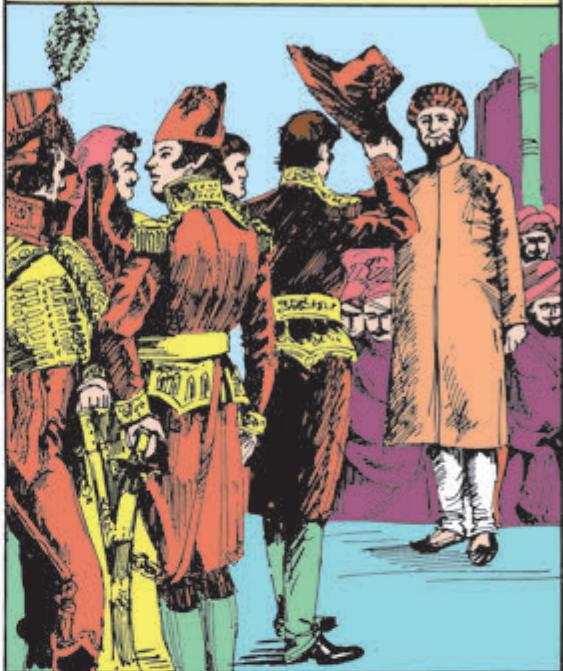
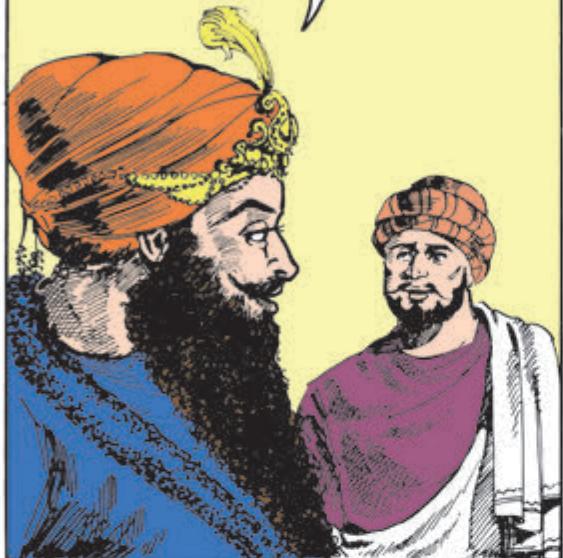
DOCTOR, THE
MAHARAJA WOULD
LIKE YOU TO
TREAT
HIM.





TRULY YOU ARE A WISE
AND TOLERANT MAN.
WE SHALL HENCEFORTH
CALL YOU
FAKIR AZIZUDDIN !

FAKIR AZIZUDDIN EVENTUALLY
BECAME RANJIT SINGH'S
FOREIGN MINISTER.



ANOTHER OF RANJIT SINGH'S MINISTERS WAS DINA NATH,
A KASHMIRI HINDU, WHO LOOKED AFTER THE FINANCES OF
THE STATE.

I NEED MORE
MONEY FOR
THE ARMY.

DON'T WORRY, SIRE. THE MERCHANTS
AND BUSINESSMEN
WILL CONTRIBUTE
TO THE TREASURY
IN RETURN FOR
THE PEACE AND
SECURITY YOUR
REIGN HAS
BROUGHT
THEM.



RANJIT SINGH'S MOST FAMOUS GENERAL WAS HARI SINGH NALWA, A SIKH, WHO REPEATEDLY DEFEATED THE AFGHANS.



HE WAS ALWAYS IN THE THICK OF BATTLE...



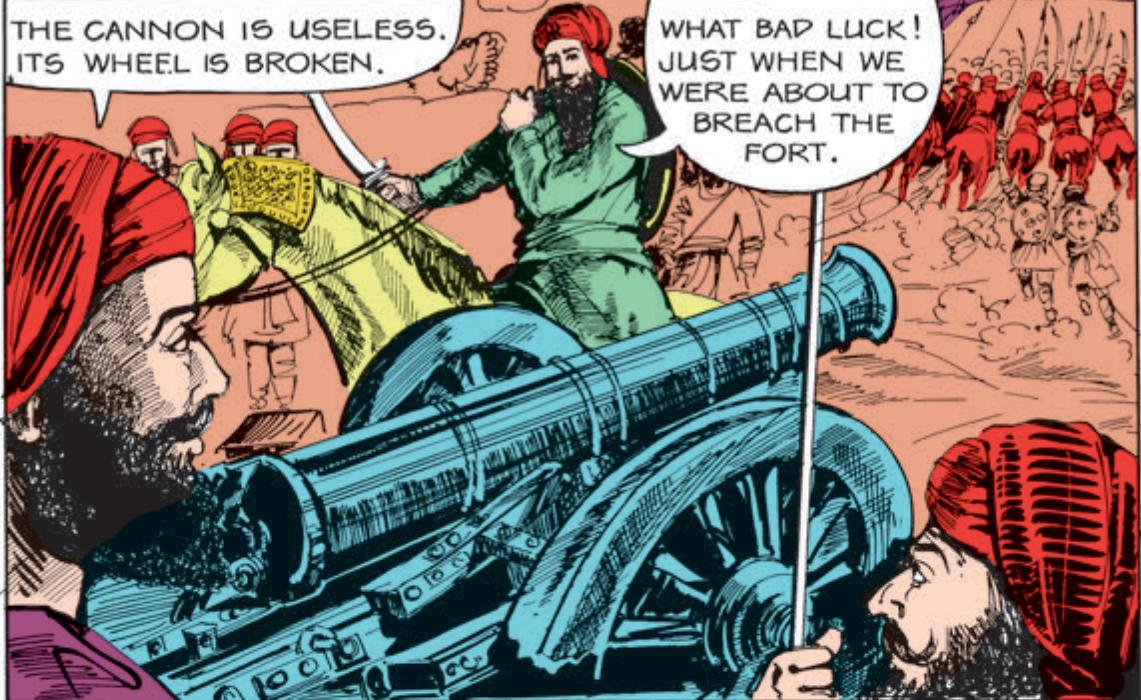
...AN INSPIRATION TO HIS SOLDIERS...

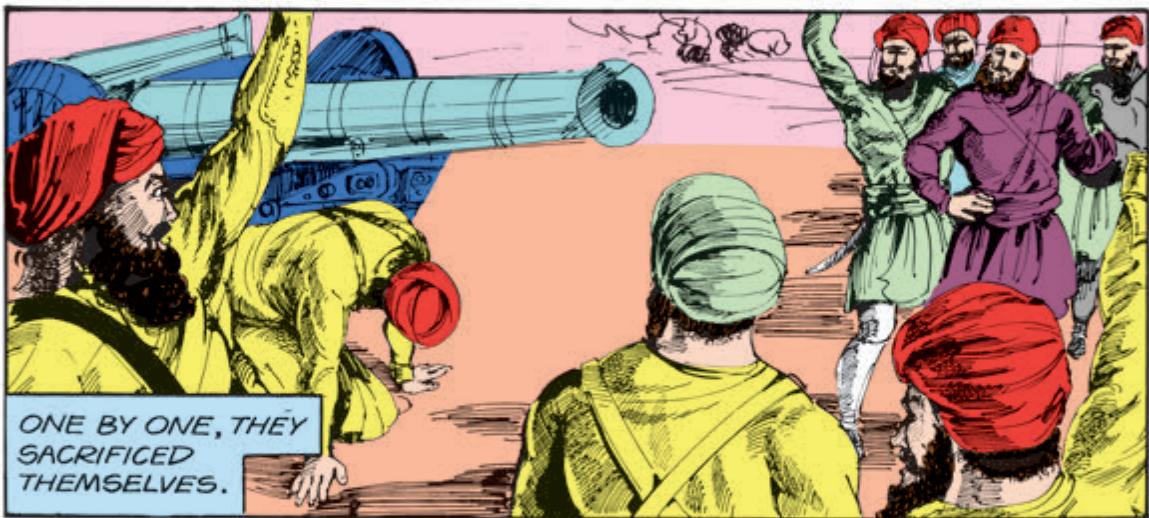


...AND AN OBJECT OF FEAR TO HIS ENEMIES.



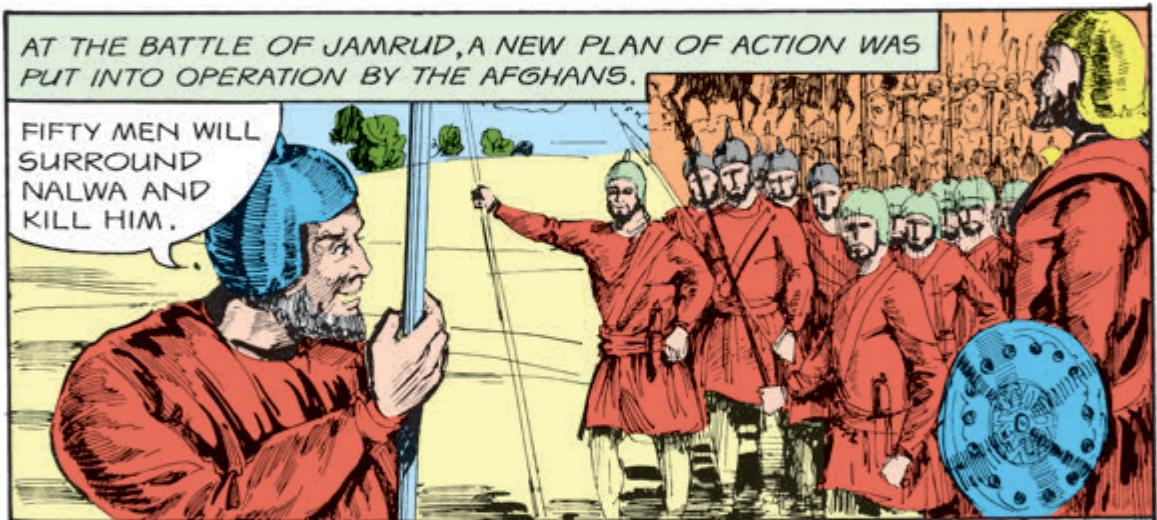
THE DEVOTION OF RANJIT SINGH'S SOLDIERS TO HARI SINGH NALWA WAS EVIDENT DURING THE SIEGE OF MULTAN.





A BREACH WAS MADE. INSPIRED BY THE SACRIFICES, THE SIKH ARMY STORMED INTO THE CITADEL.





HE FOUGHT BRAVELY BUT WAS FINALLY OVERCOME.



MY END IS NEAR.
BUT DO NOT
DISCLOSE THIS.
KEEP FIGHTING!



THOUGH LEADERLESS, THE SIKHS
KEPT FIGHTING UNTIL—

THE MAHARAJA
IS HERE.



FOR RANJIT, ANOTHER VICTORY WAS TINGED WITH SADNESS. NALWA FELL IN THE BATTLE.

I HAVE LOST MY MOST LOYAL AND FAITHFUL WARRIOR!



ANOTHER OF RANJIT SINGH'S GENERALS, ZORAWAR SINGH, CONQUERED LADAKH AND MARCHED INTO THE HEART OF TIBET.



RANJIT SINGH'S FAME SPREAD ALL OVER THE WORLD. IN FRANCE THE KING HEARD ABOUT HIM FROM A FRENCH TRAVELLER.



YOUR EXCELLENCY, A NEW CONQUEROR AND STATESMAN HAS ARisen IN HINDUSTAN; RANJIT SINGH, THE LION OF THE PUNJAB.

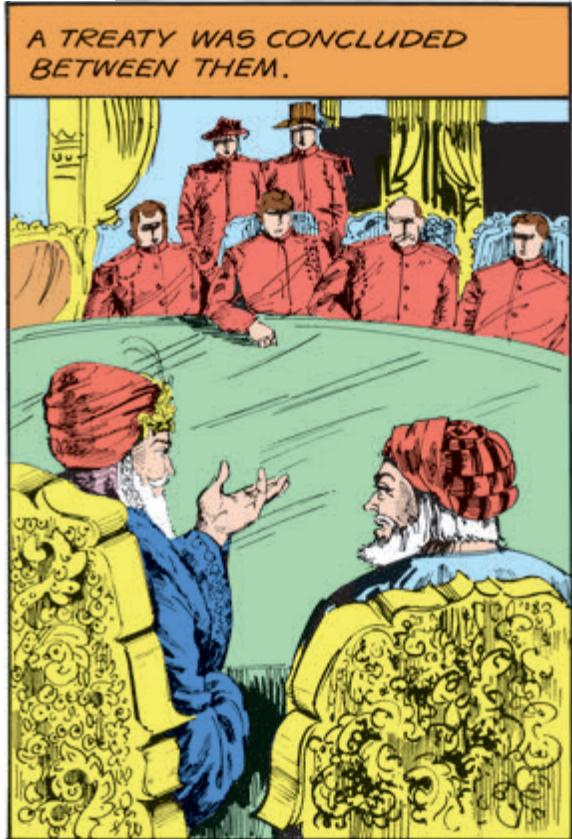
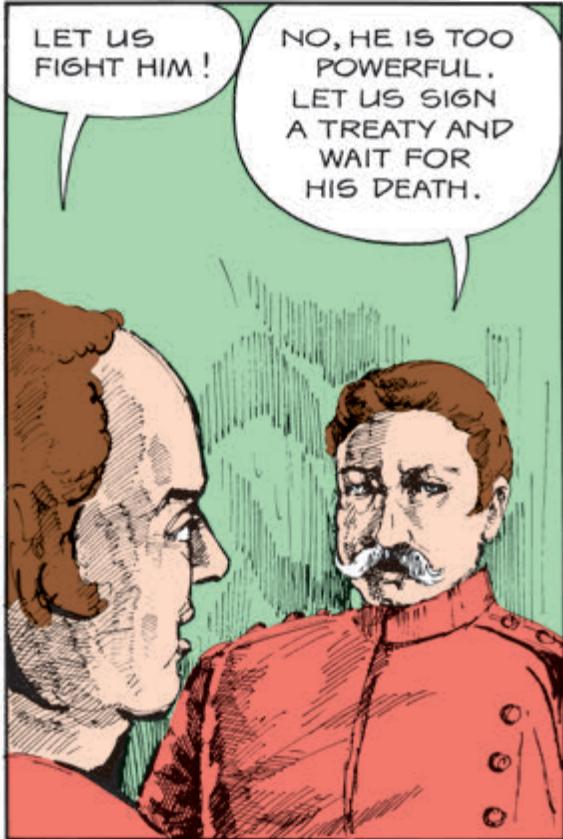
GOOD! PERHAPS HE WILL DEFEAT THE BRITISH AND BECOME OUR ALLY.



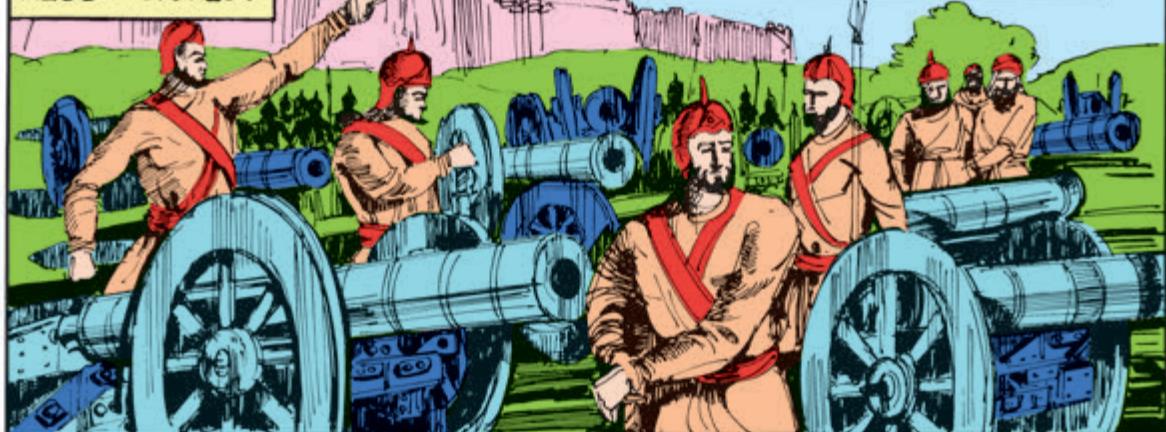
THE BRITISH WERE ALARMED BY RANJIT SINGH'S SUCCESS.

THIS MAN RANJIT SINGH IS BECOMING TOO POWERFUL. WHAT SHALL WE DO!





A STRONG ARTILLERY CORPS, WITH CANNONS AND GUNNERS WAS ALSO FORMED.



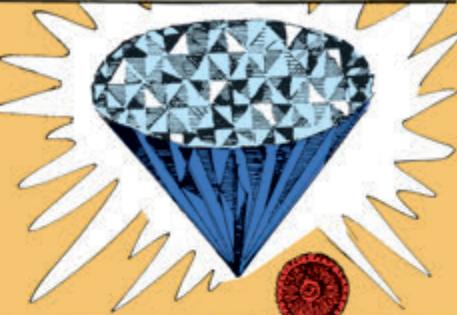
THE CAVALRY, THE MAIN STRIKING FORCE, WAS STRENGTHENED.



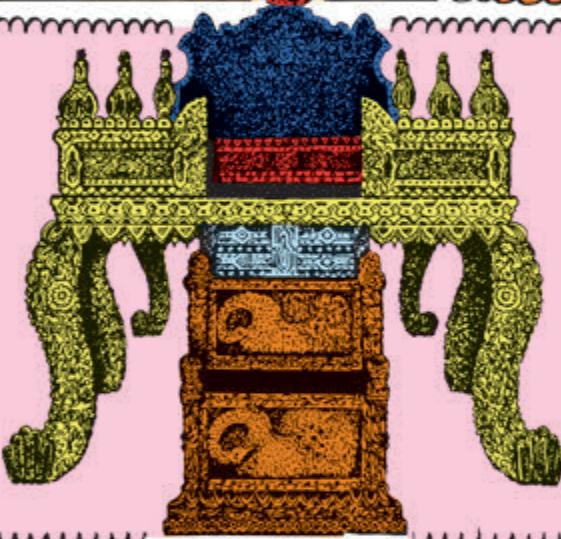
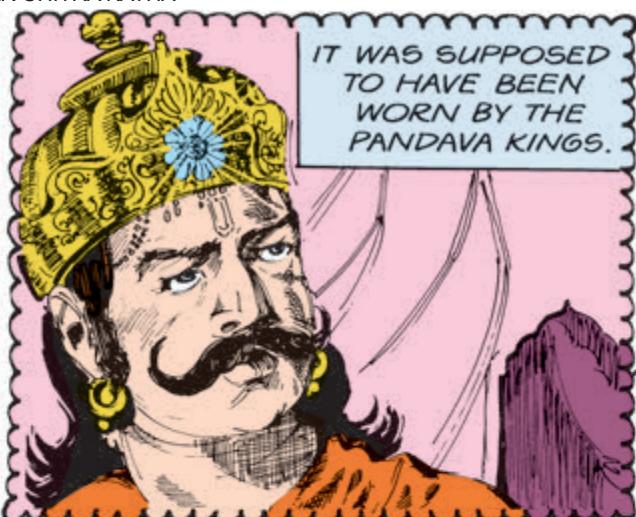
SOLDIERS OF FORTUNE, FROM OUTSIDE THE PUNJAB FLOCKED TO RANJIT SINGH'S ARMY—NOTABLY THE GURKHAS.



ONE OF THE CROWNING ACHIEVEMENTS OF RANJIT SINGH'S REIGN WAS HIS ACQUISITION OF THE FAMED KOH-I-NOOR DIAMOND.



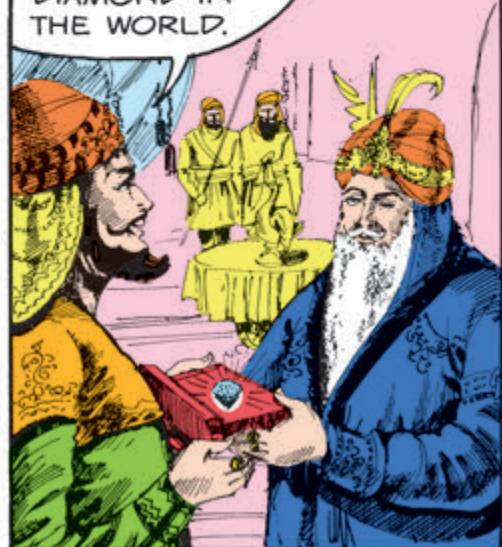
IT WAS SUPPOSED TO HAVE BEEN WORN BY THE PANDAVA KINGS.



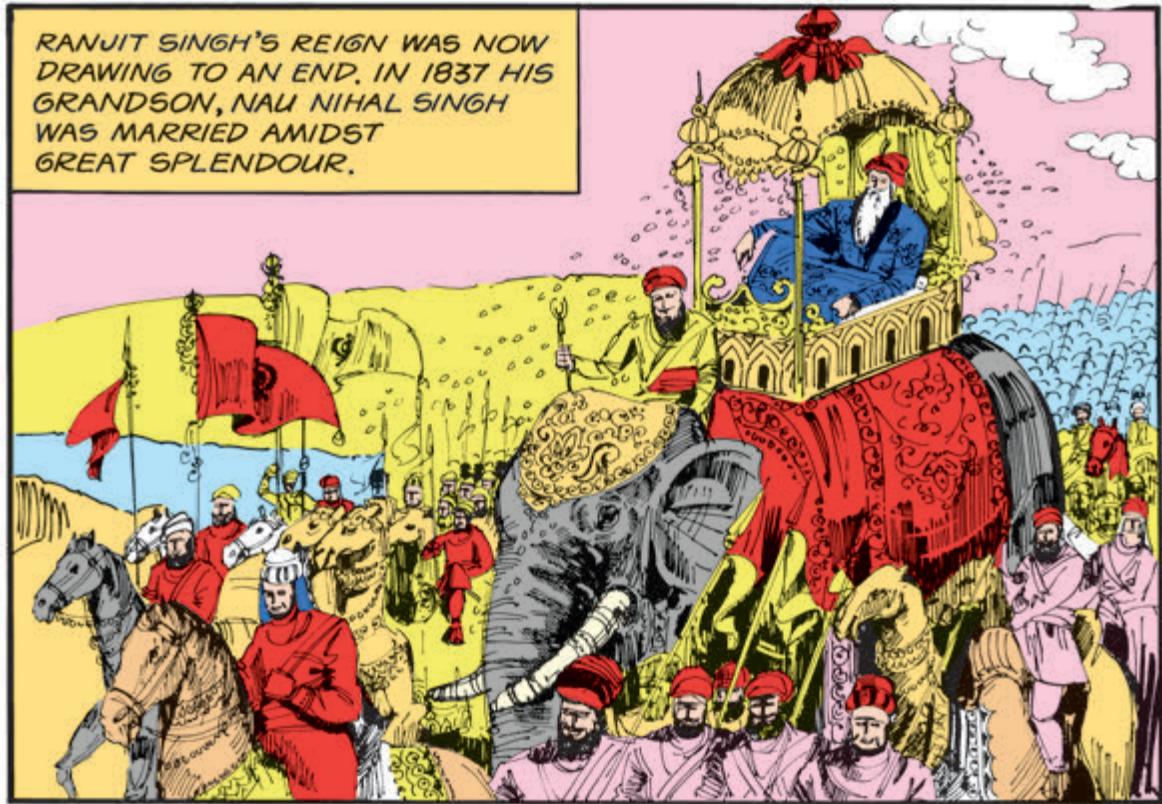
AND IN MUGHAL TIMES IT ADORNED THE PEACOCK THRONE.

BUT WITH RANJIT SINGH'S CONQUEST OF KASHMIR, SHAH SHUJAH WAS FORCED TO HAND IT OVER TO THE SIKH KINGS.

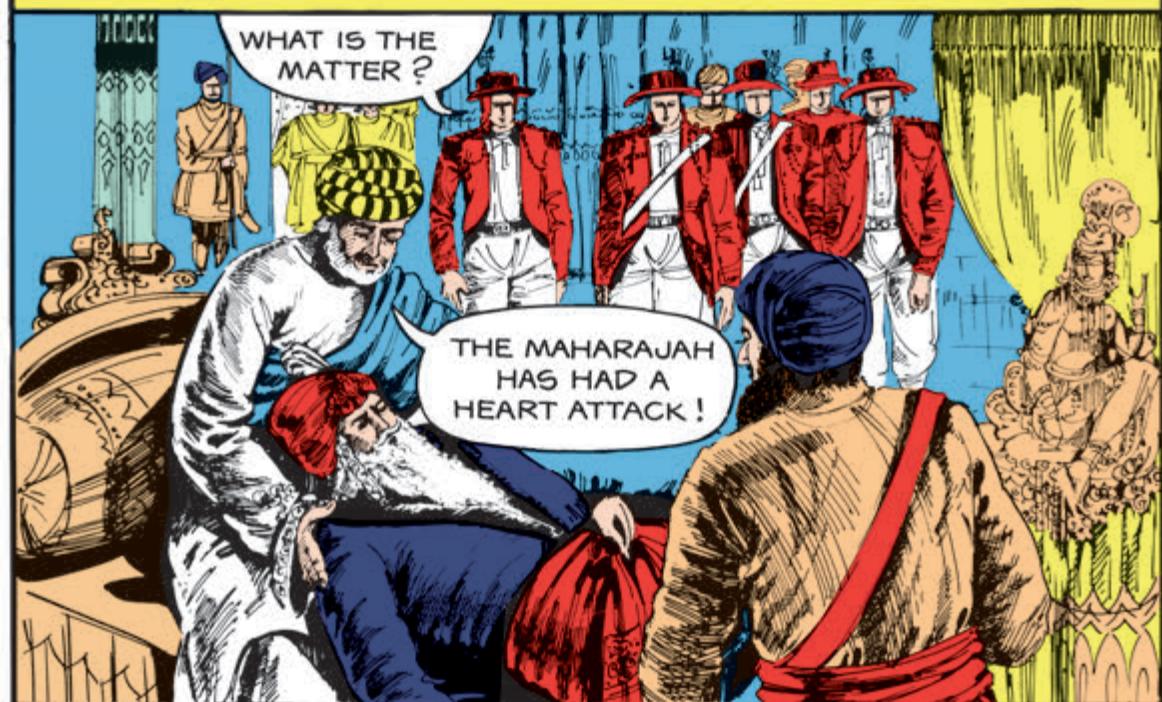
SIRE, IT IS YOURS.
THE BIGGEST DIAMOND IN
THE WORLD.



RANJIT SINGH'S REIGN WAS NOW DRAWING TO AN END. IN 1837 HIS GRANDSON, NAU NIHAI SINGH WAS MARRIED AMIDST GREAT SPLENDOUR.



A YEAR LATER, RANJIT SINGH HAD A STROKE DURING A MEETING WITH LORD AUCKLAND AT FEROZEPUR.





ON JUNE 27, 1839, RANJIT SINGH
BREATHED HIS LAST.



A SANDALWOOD PYRE WAS
LIT AND HIS RANIS
COMMITTED 'SATI' BY
THROWING THEMSELVES
INTO THE FIRE.

WHICH OF THE ACKS HAVE YOU STILL NOT READ?

EPICS AND MYTHOLOGY <i>Best known stories from the Epics and the Puranas</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Abhimanyu Agastya Andhaka Aniruddha Aruni And Uttanka Ashwini Kumars Ayappan Bahubali Bhanumati Bheema And Hanuman Bheeshma Chandrahasa Dasharatha Dhrura And Ashtavakra Draupadi Drona Elephanta Gandhari Ganesha Ganesha And The Moon Ganga Garuda Ghatotkacha Hanuman Hanuman To The Rescue Harischandra Heroes Of Hampi Indra And Shachi Indra And Shibi Indra And Virtra Jagannatha Of Puri Jayadratha Kacha And Devayani Karna Kartikeya Konark Krishna Krishna And Jarasandha Krishna And Narakasura Krishna And Rukmini Krishna And Shishupala Krishna And The False Vaasudeva Kubera Kumbhakarna Mahabharata Mahiravana Nachiketa Nahusha Nala Damayanti Pareekshit Parashurama Prabhavati Pradyumna Prahlad Purushottam Dev And Padmavati Rama Ravana Humbled Saraswati Sati And Shiva Savitri Shiva Parvati Stories of Creation Subhadra Sudama Sukanya Surya Tales From The Upanishads Tales Of Arjuna Tales Of Balarama Tales Of Durga Tales Of Indra Tales Of Narada 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tales Of Shiva Tales Of Vishnu Tales Of Yudhishtira Tapati Thanjavur The Churning Of The Ocean The Gita The Golden Mongoose The King In A Parrot's Body The Lord Of Lanka The Pandava Princes The Pandavas In Hiding The Parijata Tree The Sons Of Rama The Syanamanta Gem Tirupati Triputra Uloopi Vaishno Devi Vali Vishwamitra Yayati <p style="text-align: center;">VISIONARIES <i>Inspiring tales of thinkers, social reformers and nation builders</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adi Shankara Albert Einstein Anant Pai Babasaheb Ambedkar Basaveshwara Buddha Chaitanya Mahaprabhu Chanakya Chokha Mela Dayananda Deshbandhu Chittaranjan Das Eknath Fa Hien Ghanshyamdas Birla Guru Arjan Guru Gobind Singh Guru Nanak Guru Tegh Bahadur Hsiuen Tsang J.R.D Tata Jagadis Chandra Bose Jamsetji Tata Jawaharlal Nehru Jayaparakash Narayan Jim Corbett Jnaneshwar Kabir Kalidasa Lal Bahadur Shastri Lokmanya Tilak M. S. Subbulakshmi Madhvacharya Mahavira Marie And Pierre Curie Megasthenes Mirabai Mother Teresa Narayan Guru Rabindranath Tagore Ram Shastri Ramana Maharshi Ramanuja Salim Ali Shankar Dev Soordas Sri. Ramakrishna Srinivasa Ramanujan Subramania Bharati 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Swami Chinmayananda Swami Pranavananda Tales Of Sai Baba Tansen Tulsidas Vidyasagar Vivekananda Zarathushtra <p style="text-align: center;">INDIAN CLASSICS <i>Enchanting tales from Indian literature</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ananda Math Ancestors Of Rama Devi Choudhurani Durgesh Nandini Kadambari Kannagi Kapala Kundala Kumanan Maarthanda Varma Malavika Manonmani Prince Jivaka Raj Singh Ratnavali Shakuntala The Adventures Of Pratapan The Elusive Kaka Udayana Urvashi Vasantasena Vasavadatta Veer Dhaval <p style="text-align: center;">FABLES AND HUMOUR <i>Evergreen folktales, legends and tales of wisdom and humour</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A Bag Of Gold Coins Amrapali Ander Nagari Angulimala Bikal The Terrible Birbal The Clever Birbal The Genius Birbal The Just Birbal The Wise Birbal The Witty Birbal To The Rescue The Inimitable Birbal Chandralalat Dhola And Maru Friends And Foes Gopal And The Cowherd Gopal The Jester The Mystery Of The Missing Gift The Pandit And The Milkmaid The Pig And The Dog The Pious Cat The Priceless Gem The Prince And The Magician The Prophecy The Queen's Necklace The Rainbow Prince The Secret Of The Talking Bird The Silent Teacher The Tiger And The Woodpecker The Tiger Eater Thugsen Viduyt Chora Vikramaditya's Throne <p style="text-align: center;">HITOPADESHA TALES <i>Choice Of Friends How Friends Are Parted</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hothal <p style="text-align: center;">JATAKA TALES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Battle Of Wits Bird Stories Deer Stories Elephant Stories Jackal Stories Monkey Stories Nandi Vishala Stories Of Courage Stories Of Wisdom Tales Of Misers The Deadly Feast The Giant And The Dwarf The Hidden Treasure The Magic Chant <p style="text-align: center;">BRAVEHEARTS <i>Stirring tales of brave men and women of India</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A Nation Awakes Ahilyabai Holkar Ajatasatru Akbar Amar Singh Rathor Ashoka Babur Bagha Jatin Bajirao I 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Mouse Merchant True Friends Kanwal And Kehar Kesari The Flying Thief King Kusha Manduka <p style="text-align: center;">PANCHATANTRA TALES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Crows And Owls How The Jackal Ate The Elephant The Brahmin And The Goat The Dullard The Greedy Mother-in-law The Jackal And The Wardrum Raman Of Tenali Raman The Matchless Wit Sahasramala Sakshi Gopal Satwant Kaur Sharan Kaur Shrenik Sukhu And Dukhu Sundari Tales Of Maryada Rama The Acrobat The Adventures Of Agad Datta The Adventures Of Baddu And Chhotu The Bridegroom's Ring The Celestial Necklace The Clever Dancer The Cowherd Of Alawi The Fearless Boy The Fool's Disciples The Golden Sand The Green Demon The Unhappy Tiger The Learned Pandit The Lost Prince The Magic Grove The Miraculous Conch The Mystery Of The Missing Gift The Pandit And The Milkmaid The Pig And The Dog The Pious Cat The Priceless Gem The Prince And The Magician The Prophecy The Queen's Necklace The Rainbow Prince The Secret Of The Talking Bird The Silent Teacher The Tiger And The Woodpecker The Tiger Eater Thugsen Viduyt Chora Vikramaditya's Throne <p style="text-align: center;">CONTEMPORARY CLASSICS <i>(New Category)</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>The best of modern Indian literature</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Blue Umbrella
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RANJIT SINGH

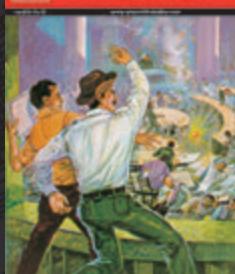
Even the conquering British had to tread cautiously around this one-eyed, all-seeing lion-hearted king of Punjab. Strong and outstandingly brave, Ranjit Singh defied death at every turn. Only ten years old when he first led a victorious army, he went on to become maharaja, in 1801, of all Punjab and then lands beyond.

OTHER ACK BRAVEHEARTS:

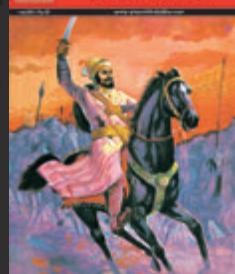
BANDA BAHADUR



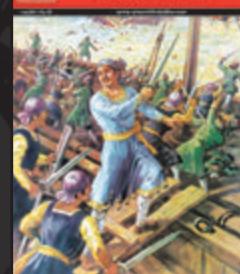
BHAGAT SINGH



SHIVAJI



LACHIT BARPHUKAN



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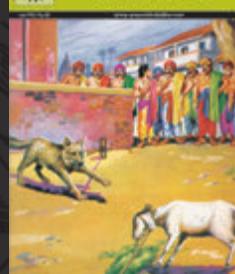
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